

26-27 Apr 1976
DENISON UNIT

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29 April 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Political Research

SUBJECT : Visit and Discussion with the Political Science
Department of Denison University, 26-27 April 1976

1. On 26-27 April 1976, I had the pleasure of returning to Denison University in order to conduct several general discussions concerning the nature of the work done in OPR, and specifically my own work and experiences since joining the Agency. The invitation was extended by Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honorary, and my previous department colleagues. My itinerary for the two-day period included two question and answer sessions before scheduled political science classes, a dialogue with a colleague concerning the future of American-Soviet relations before his class in Soviet Foreign Policy, and one informal discussion session with a group of Pi Sigma Alpha members, departmental majors, and other interested faculty and students.

2. As always, it was enjoyable seeing old friends and students again. But it was particularly challenging to face my first round of serious questioning as an Agency employee. The major theme of my remarks was the difficult analytical nature of OPR's efforts. I also sought to illustrate that the scope of our work is quite different from the "cloak and dagger" image often conveyed in the press. There was, for example, genuine surprise among many students that so much of our information comes from open sources. Few questions or expressed attitudes were in any respect hostile.

3. In the largest discussion session, a member of the campus radio station identified himself upon my request. I stressed that the remarks to follow were my own attitudes and impressions, and in no way reflected official Agency policy or points of view. On the evening news, he rendered a highly accurate and praiseworthy summary of the major themes contained in my comments.

4. I personally found the question and answer sessions intellectually and physically exhausting. I don't believe I have ever

been so aware of my every word, of the possible interpretations they might convey, and of the potential ramifications of a careless remark. It was a far cry from the "off the top of your head" answers every academic knows so well. I returned encouraged by the rather positive attitudes toward the Agency I found in this university community, and most professionally satisfied to have had this opportunity for exchanging points of view. I hope similar circumstances will present themselves again.



Analytical Techniques Group

STATINTL

17 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Request to Engage in a General Discussion of
the Unclassified Portions of My Work in
OPR/DDI with the Political Science Department
of Denison University

1. I request approval to participate in a general discussion of the unclassified portions of my work in OPR/DDI with the faculty and students of the Political Science Department of Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Although not yet established, the date would probably fall during the final two weeks of April.

2. Before joining the Agency I was a faculty member in the Political Science Department at Denison. Recently Pi Sigma Alpha, the department's chapter of the political science honorary, invited me to return for a day to visit many of my old students and to discuss my work with the Analytical Techniques Group in OPR. A major portion of my own work, a significant amount of the work in OPR, and many of OPR's publications are unclassified. Members of ATG frequently consult with individuals in the academic community concerning our research, have participated on various academic panels, and have delivered papers at several professional conferences.

3. No formal presentation or public address would be given. However, it is assumed that in informal questioning some queries would require a very general discussion of the division of labor within the DDI and the basic analytical approach to problems used by the DDI analyst. I would also assume that a member of the campus newspaper might attend the discussion session. I would be openly identified as a CIA employee and no classified information would be involved.


STATINTL

Analytical Techniques Group
Office of Political Research

SUBJECT: Request to Engage in a General Discussion of the
Unclassified Portions of My Work in OPR/DDI with
the Political Science Department of Denison
University

CONCUR:

STATINTL

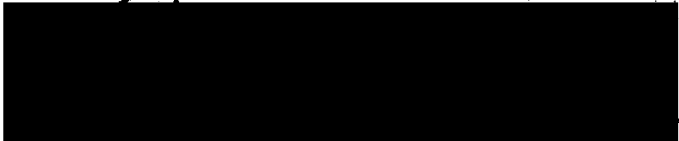


Director Political Research

17 MAR 1976

Date

STATINTL




Coordinator for Academic Relations

19 MAR 1976

Date

STATINTL

for 

Director of Security

26 MAR 1976

Date

APPROVED:

Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence

Date

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